**SENIOR MEMORY BOOK**

This semester, we will produce a Senior Memory Book. Each chapter will be evaluated separately, and the final book will be evaluated for an overall grade at the end of the semester. You will need either a large binder or photo album for this project. You are responsible for putting the chapters, as they are returned to you, into the book in an attractive way, along with illustrations for each chapter. This will save you time at the end of the school year.

Most chapters will include a *Resource Page*, which lists all the sources you used for that particular chapter. The major grade, however, will be a piece of writing, which will be graded for content, organization, development, and accuracy in mechanics. This means that you need to proofread and edit before turning the piece in for a grade! Note that I expect final drafts, not rough drafts, as each chapter is turned in, typed. You may also include pictures, items you have collected over the years, examples of your schoolwork, etc. with each chapter, or you may choose to wait and turn all these in with the final project. You will be given a folder in which you will turn in each chapter. As the folder is returned to you with the marked rubric, you will remove that chapter and use the folder for the next chapter.

Due dates for each chapter will be given at a later date and will NOT be subject to change. NOTE: FINAL BOOK MUST INCLUDE ALL SIXTEEN CHAPTERS (PARTS ONE AND TWO) SO HANG ONTO ALL THE CHAPTERS AS THEY ARE RETURNED TO YOU. THE FINAL BOOK WILL BE GRADED AS A WHOLE.

**PART ONE: EARLY YEARS**

Ch.1: "My Heritage"--Write a description of your ethnic background. Include both parents' genealogy. Do some research. Turn in a list of at least three sources: individuals in your family, family history pamphlets from family reunions, library research on your name or the country from which your ancestors came, etc. Use MLA format for your documentation.

Ch.2: "Before I Was, There Were"--Write a brief description of your family tree. Include a family tree chart. Tell about family members who were around before you were born: grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, older siblings. Interview at least three people in your family who were living before you were born. Include quotes from them within your chapter. EXTRA CREDIT: Have one or more relatives write a brief reflection about your family before you were born: your parents' marriage, births of older siblings, etc.

Ch.3: "The People in My Life"--This chapter will be a collective biography. You must write a biography of at least two family members. Each biography should be at least 3 typed, double-spaced pages. Interview family members about their upbringing and how things are different now compared to when they were growing up. You may include as many additional biographies as you want; in fact, this is a section you may want to keep coming back to throughout the school year to add more information.

Ch.4: "Family Lore"--Collect at least five family stories from a variety of family members. These can be about you or about someone else in your family. You may want to try to find one story about each member of your family. You may collect these in person by actually sitting down and talking to the family member or you may want to write, either via e-mail or regular mail, to that person. Encourage the person you talk to to be as detailed as possible and even to provide pictures if possible (photocopies are fine). Put the five stories together in whatever logical order you feel is best; write an introduction and a conclusion. Within the first paragraph of each story, or as a separate introduction if you write the story in that person's voice, identify the teller and his/her relationship to you. EXTRA CREDIT: Have one or more family members write out their own stories, in addition to the five required. It would be nice to have a variety here and in that person's own handwriting, with his/her signature. This would be especially meaningful from older relatives.

Ch. 5: "Suddenly, I Became Me"--When and where were you born? Were there any unusual or humorous circumstances surrounding your birth? How was your name chosen? What were the first couple of years like? (Look back at your baby book--first tooth? first word? first step? etc.) What memories do you have of your first five years? Were younger siblings born during that time? Any childhood illnesses? What are some of those stories your mom tells that you wish she didn't? Resources: baby book, family members (List these) Create a well-organized essay including as much information about your first 5 years as possible. EXTRA CREDIT: Have your mom or dad (or both) write a reflection about the time leading up to your birth, their fears, excitement, etc.

Ch. 6: "School Bells"--Write about kindergarten through grade 3--first day jitters, fears, anticipation; learning to read and write; special friends, teachers; school programs (Did you play a tree in a school production?), etc. Tell about where you lived during this time and the schools you attended. Include favorite childhood activities you enjoyed during this period of your life. How had your family changed from Ch. 5? This is a good place to include some of your early schoolwork or artwork when you put the final book together next semester. EXTRA CREDIT: If you are still in touch with any of your teachers from this period, ask them to write a memory about you.

Ch.7: "More School Bells"--Cover grades 4 -6--You are the top guy on the totem pole in elementary school. Or did you move and have to start all over? You start making "best friends." Discuss how you have changed since early school years. How have you changed physically? Remember those Bugs Bunny teeth we all had in fourth grade? What new activities have you added? How has your family changed during the past few years? What do you remember about school--friends, subjects, teachers, programs, clubs, etc. Resources for this period will be family photo albums, school memory books, maybe elementary school yearbooks, parents. EXTRA CREDIT: same as Ch.6.

Ch.8: "I Grew Up Here!"--Write a chapter about your home and neighborhood. You may have moved around a bit; if so, include information about all the homes you've lived in. Describe your bedroom over the years. How did your space change as you grew up? Describe the colors, decorations, etc. of your various rooms. What was the neighborhood like? Was there one special hangout that all the kids went to? Make the reader see the various places you lived. Resources: parents, your own memories, old pictures of various places you've lived.